

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRESS ITEMS ON TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO AND TURKISH-
CHINESE RELATIONS

FOLLOWING ARE TEXTS OF TWO PRESS ITEMS CONCERNING TURKEY:

1. ARTICLE BY CHARLES BARTLETT ENTITLED "CARTER'S BOLD
STAND ON TURKEY" FROM JUN: 14 WASHINGTON STAR:
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BEGIN QUOTE JIMMY CARTER IS GAINING A CHANCE TO MAKE HIS
NAME AS A GIANT-KILLER FROM A TURN IN THE TIDE OF SENTIMENT
ON THE TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO.

FEISTIEST AND LEAST RESPONSIBLE OF CONGRESS' POST-VIETNAM
ASSERTIONS ON FOREIGN POLICY, THE 1975 EMBARGO ON ARMS

SALES TO TURKEY HAS COME CLOSER TO FULFILLING THE APPREHENSIONS OF ITS OPPONENTS THAN THE EXPECTATIONS OF ITS BACKERS. IT HAS NOT PRODUCED A SETTLEMENT ON CYPRUS. IT HAS REDUCED THE TURKS' ROLE IN NATO AS WELL AS THEIR FAITH IN THE STEADINESS OF AMERICAN INTENTIONS.

CARTER TILTED TOWARD THE GREEK POSITION IN HIS CAMPAIGN FOR THE SAME REASON THAT CONGRESS PASSED THE EMBARGO. HE AND THE MEMBERS WERE RIDING AN ISSUE THAT HAD WELDED GREEK-AMERICANS INTO A ,ASSIONATE VOTING BLOC, A RECKLESS LOBBY

WITH A NARROW FOCUS.

IF POLITICS INDUCED CARTER TO COURT THE BLOC, EXPOSURE TO THE REALITIES INDUCED HIM TO BREAK WITH IT. HE IS TAKING A BOLD STAND. IF HE BEATS THE LOBBY AND LIFTS THE EMBARGO, CARTER WILL BEGIN TO LOOK LIKE DAVID STANDING AGAINST THE CONGRESSIONAL GIANT. HIS SLINGSHOT WILL HAVE PREVAILED AGAINST ORGANIZED PRESSURES ON THREE MAJOR SHOWDOWNS: PANAMA, ARMS TO EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA AS WELL AS TO TURKEY.

THE PRESIDENT SEEMED TO HAVE A MINIMAL CHANCE ON THE TURKISH ISSUE ONLY ONE MONTH AGO. ELECTION PRESSURES WERE MAKING THEMSELVES FELT ON BOTH SIDES OF THE CAPITAL. THE PERSUASIVE SKILL OF CLARK CLIFFORD, WHOSE ON-THE-SPOT UNCLASSIFIED

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PROBINGS LED CARTER TO HIS PRESENT POSITION, HAD FAILED TO SHAKE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATION COMMITTEE'S DEFERENCE TO THE LOBBY.

THE CHANGE CAME WITH THE VISIT TO WASHINGTON OF BULENT ECEVIT, THE NEW PRIME MINISTER, WHO IS A TURKISH VERSION OF WILLIE BRANDT, A SOCIALIST WITH A SHARP SENSITIVITY TO AMERICAN WAYS. WITHOUT BLUSTER OR THREATS, ECEVIT PUT TURKEY'S DILEMMA CANDIDLY BEFORE U.S. OFFICIALS HERE. HE REMINDED CONGRESS THAT HIS PEOPLE FEEL POLITICALLY, ECONOMICALLY AND GEOGRAPHICALLY ISOLATED. THEY ARE BADLY IN NEED OF REASSURANCE FROM THEIR FRIENDS. TURKS ARE TENDING TO BLAME THEIR TROUBLES ON THEIR PAST AFFILIATIONS, PARTICULARLY SINCE THEY SUFFER LIKE THE REST OF THE WEST FROM UNEMPLOYMENT AND INFLATION. THEY ARE NOT BOUND TO THE WEST BY THEIR OLD FEARS BECAUSE SOME 33 YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE JOSEPH STALIN MADE TERRITORIAL DEMANDS ON THEM. ECEVIT PROFESSES NOT TO FORESEE ANY NEAR-TERM PROBLEMS WITH MOSCOW.

THE IRRITATION OF BEING A JUNIOR PARTNER IN NATO HAS BEEN AGITATED, IN ECEVIT'S CALCULATIONS, BY THE WAY THIS COUNTRY

BEHAVED IN THE CYPRUS CRUNCH. CONGRESS' HOSTILE AND PUZZLING CONDUCT IN THAT REGIONAL FRACAS HAS GIVEN THE TURKS NO REASSURANCE THAT THE REACTION WILL BE FULLY SUPPORTIVE IN A CRISIS THAT HAS BROADER RAMIFICATIONS.

CONVEYED IN THE FRAMEWORK OF A NATO MEETING, THESE ARGUMENTS BY ECEVIT AND TURKISH CYPRIOT LEADER, RAUF DENKTASH, HAVE PROVOKED A REEXAMINATION IN MANY MINDS OF CLIFFORD'S WARNING THAT "A NEW APPROACH IS NECESSARY." MANY FEEL THAT PROLONGED PUNISHMENT OF TURKEY FOR ITS NON-DEFENSIVE USE OF AMERICAN WEAPONS IS HARDLY CONSISTENT

WITH THE SLAP ON THE WRIST THAT ISRAEL DREW FOR ITS USE OF CLUSTER BOMBS IN LEBANON.
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MOREOVER, THERE ARE INCREASING COMPLAINTS THAT THE GREEK LOBBY HAS OVERPLAYED ITS HAND. THE MEMBERS ARE IMPATIENT WITH THE ONE-ISSUE GROUPS THAT BUZZ ABOUT THEM LIKE WASPS. ON THE TURKISH ARMS ISSUE, THEY ARE ASKING THEMSELVES IF IT IS PRUDENT TO RISK THE CHARGE OF HAVING PROPITIATED A MINORITY BLOC AT THE EXPENSE OF THE NATIONAL INTEREST.

THE BATTLE IS FAR FROM OVER. THE GREEK LOBBY IS STILL POTENT AND THE TIDE CAN SWING AGAIN, PARTICULARLY IF THE VOTE IS DELAYED UNTIL THE MEMBERS FEEL THE HEAT OF THE ELECTIONS. BUT THE FIRMNESS OF THE PRESIDENT'S STAND HAS STIRRED OPTIMISM THAT CONGRESS CAN BE SHIFTED TO A MORE RATIONAL POSITION. END QUOTE

2. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR ARTICLE OF JUNE 15 BY SAM COHEN ENTITLED "TURKISH POLICY OPTIONS WIDENED BY HIGH-LEVEL CHINESE VISIT":

BEGIN QUOTE TURKEY'S NEW MULTI-SIDED FOREIGN POLICY HAS GAINED A NEW DIMENSION FOLLOWING A VISIT TO ANKARA BY THE CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER HUANG HUA.

THE CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER'S ARRIVAL WAS THE FIRST HIGH-LEVEL VISIT BY A CHINESE OFFICIAL SINCE THE TWO COUNTRIES ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IN 1971. IT CAME JUST AFTER TURKISH PRIME MINISTER BULENT ECEVIT RETURNED FROM A TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES -- AND AS THE PRIME MINISTER PREPARES FOR A VISIT TO MOSCOW, DUE JUNE 21.

APPARENTLY THE CHINESE, WHO ARE KNOWN TO BE CONCERNED WITH THE RECENT SWING IN TURKEY'S FOREIGN POLICY TOWARDS THE SOVIET BLOC, WANTED TO WARN THE TURKS AGAINST GOING TOO
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FAR.

CHINESE DIPLOMATS HERE HAVE NOT HIDDEN THEIR CONCERN ABOUT THE RECENT DETERIORATION IN U.S.-TURKISH RELATIONS, DUE TO THE AMERICAN ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY AND THE POSSIBILITIES OF A FURTHER SHIFT IN ANKARA'S STAND AWAY FROM THE WESTERN ALLIANCE, IF THE ARMS BAN IS NOT LIFTED.

IT WAS CLEAR THAT MR. HUA'S MAIN PURPOSE IN VISITING TURKEY WAS TO TELL THE TURKS NOT TO BE CARRIED AWAY BY SOVIET OVERTURES AND THE HOPES OF A REAL DETENTE.

IN FACT MR. HUA MADE HIS POINT QUITE STRONGLY IN HIS TALKS

WITH TURKISH LEADERS. IN A SPEECH AT A BANQUET, HE PUBLICLY ATTACKED THE SOVIET UNION FOR ITS "AGGRESSIVE, EXPANSIONIST AND SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AFRICA, AND OTHER AREAS IN ORDER TO ENCIRCLE WESTERN EUROPE." HE SAID CHINA AND TURKEY HAD "THE COMMON DUTY" OF RESISTING THE THREATS OF AGGRESSION AND ESTABLISHING CLOSER TIES.

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS, HUANG HUA REITERATED HIS VIEWS ABOUT SOVIET INTENTIONS AND CHINA'S DESIRE TO SEE "A STRONG TURKEY" IN THIS STRATEGIC PART OF THE WORLD.

TURKISH OFFICIALS ARE UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE BEEN CAUTIOUS IN THEIR REACTION.

THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN CHINESE AND TURKISH OFFICIALS INDICATED THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES DO NOT SEE THE SITUATION EYE TO EYE. MR. ECEVIT BELIEVES THAT IT IS IN TURKEY'S INTEREST TO RECIPROCATATE MOSCOW'S MOVES FOR CLOSER POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC TIES AND THAT TURKEY CAN PLAY A PART IN PROMOTING DETENTE.

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HOWEVER TURKISH OFFICIALS ARE AWARE OF MOSCOW'S CURRENT INTERVENTIONS IN AFRICA AND OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD AND ADOPT A CAUTIOUS ATTITUDE IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH THE SOVIETS.

THE TURKS WERE PLEASED TO HEAR HUANG HUA REITERATE WHAT THEY REGARD AS CHINA'S SUPPORT OF THEIR POSITION ON

CYPRUS. INDEED, THE CHINESE MINISTER REAFFIRMED HIS GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT FOR TALKS "OF ALL SIDES DIRECTLY INVOLVED" IN THE CONFLICT FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION "BASED ON THE EQUALITY OF THE TWO CYPRIOT COMMUNITIES."

THIS IS IN LINE WITH THE TURKISH VIEW AND OPPOSES THE INTERFERENCE OF FOREIGN POWERS AND THE INTERNATIONALIZATION OF THE DISPUTE.

THE TWO SIDES ALSO AGREED TO DEVELOP THEIR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS. A JOINT ECONOMIC GROUP WILL MEET IN SEPTEMBER AND THE TURKISH MINISTER OF TRADE WILL SOON PAY A VISIT TO PEKING. TECHNICAL AND CULTURAL RELATIONS ALSO WILL BE FOSTERED.

SUMMING UP THE IMPACT OF MR. HUA'S VISIT, TURKISH OFFICIALS SAY IT HAS GIVEN TURKEY THE OPPORTUNITY OF CONFIRMING ITS NEW APPROACH IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. END QUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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